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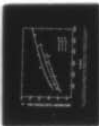
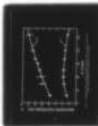
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## Secondary Electron Emission by Energetic Ions Incident on Metal Surfaces

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SECONDARY ELECTRON EMISSION BY ENERGETIC IONS  
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INTRODUCTION

Charge collectors are simple devices extensively used as a general diagnostic for laser-produced plasma. The collectors are used either to measure directly the expanding ion current a known distance away from the target or as ion detectors for ion analyzers. However, for each ion striking a charge collector, a number  $\gamma$  of secondary electrons are emitted. The number of such secondaries is a function of the mass, velocity and charge of the incident ion. Usually, a potential is applied to the collector in order to repel the secondary electrons to the electrical ground. If quantitative information is desired from the collector data, subtraction of the secondary electron emission from the collector signal is therefore required.

In the case of high energy ions ( $> 10 \text{ keV/Z}$ , where  $Z$  is the ion charge state), the contribution of the secondary electron current to the charge collector signal is typically higher than the ion current, i.e.,  $\gamma > Z$ . In this paper we describe an experimental technique which is well adapted to measure secondary electron coefficients for energetic ions ( $\gamma > Z$ ) incident on any collector surface. The technique uses a laser-produced plasma as an ion source, a high-energy ion analyzer as an

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energy and species filter and a tube arrangement to repel or attract the secondary electrons at the charge collectors. The advantages of using this tube arrangement for suppression of secondary electrons in a charge collector are also discussed. Since plastic targets ( $\text{CH}_n$ ) are extensively used in laser-plasma interactions, the secondary electron coefficients for carbon and hydrogen ions incident on copper surfaces are given as a function of incident ion energy between 15 and 150 keV/Z.

#### SECONDARY ELECTRON EJECTION

There are two principle mechanisms which cause the ejection of electrons when particles strike solid surfaces: potential<sup>1</sup> and kinetic<sup>2</sup> emission. Potential emission occurs if the potential energy of the bombarding particles is higher than the work function of the metal. In this case the electron ejection is exclusively a consequence of the potential energy transfer of the bombarding particles to the metal. Thus, potential emission should be independent of the kinetic energy of the bombarding particles but strongly dependent on the charge state of the incident ions. The other mechanism which can produce an ejection of electrons is kinetic emission. In this case a part of the kinetic energy of the bombarding particle is transferred to target electrons (of which a fraction can leave the solid). The kinetic emission should therefore be independent of the charge state of the incident ion.

For energetic ions, the contribution to the secondary electrons emitted due to potential emission becomes small relative to the kinetic emission mechanism. The secondary electron coefficient  $\gamma$  is therefore expected to be fairly independent of the charge state of the incident

ions in the high energy range of interest. The atomic mass of the impinging ion at a given energy is, however, expected to affect  $\gamma$  since the ion penetration depth into the material is mass dependent.

A parameter which can strongly affect the secondary coefficient  $\gamma$  is the cleanliness of the charge collector surface. It has been shown experimentally<sup>3</sup> that "gassy" collector surfaces can produce up to 5 times more secondary electrons than atomically clean surfaces. Measurements of  $\gamma$  for a specific collector surface should therefore be extrapolated to other collectors only if the experimental conditions and collector material are similar to the calibrated collector.

#### EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUE

Most measurements of secondary electron coefficients presented in the literature have been done with an experimental arrangement similar to that shown schematically in Fig. 1a. In all cases, a single-species monoenergetic ion beam is assumed to be incident on the entrance aperture. The collector current  $I_c$  is due to both the incident ions and emitted secondary electrons, whereas the tube current,  $I_e$ , is due to the collected secondary electrons only. In order to make sure that the secondary electrons produced from the edge of the entrance aperture cannot be collected by the tube, a suppressor with a high negative bias voltage is used between the entrance aperture and the tube. The secondary electron coefficient  $\gamma$  is related to the ratio  $I_c/I_e$  by the equation

$$\gamma = Z \left[ \frac{I_c}{I_e} - 1 \right]^{-1}, \quad (1)$$

where  $Z$  is the charge of the incident ion. For the case of energetic ions on gassy collector surfaces, we have  $\gamma > Z$  and therefore  $I_c/I_e \sim 1$ . A small uncertainty in  $I_c$  or  $I_e$  can therefore lead to a large error in the determination of  $\gamma$ .

In order to facilitate and improve the accuracy of the measurement, the technique shown in Fig. 1b was developed. A uniform density ion beam is again assumed to be incident on the entrance aperture. One tube is biased positively in order to attract secondary electron while the other tube is biased negatively to repel secondary electrons back to the ion collector. The collector current  $I_i$  associated with the negatively biased tube is therefore due solely to the ion current. The secondary electron coefficient  $\gamma$  is then given by

$$\gamma = Z \left[ \frac{I_c}{I_i} - 1 \right]. \quad (2)$$

For  $\gamma > Z$ , the subtraction error of large comparable numbers can be avoided in Eq. (2) since  $I_c \gg I_i$ . For high energy ions incident on gassy collector surfaces this technique is therefore preferred.

In principle, the biased tubes in Fig. 1b could be replaced by properly biased highly transparent fine meshes.<sup>4</sup> In practice, however, a negatively biased mesh, due to its finite cross section, can itself produce secondary electrons which can be accelerated back to the ion collector and contribute to the ion current. The advantage of the tubular electrode is to supply the suppression potential without physically intercepting the ions. This technique of using a negatively biased tube in front of a particle collector has also been successfully



used in the design of an electrostatic electron analyzer<sup>5</sup> and an ion charge collector.<sup>6</sup>

It was mentioned above that the ion beam incident on the collector arrangement shown in Fig. 1b should be monoenergetic, uniform and contain a single ion species. An excellent energetic ion source which can meet these requirements is a laser-produced plasma coupled with a high energy ion analyzer as an ion species and energy filter. The experimental arrangement is shown schematically in Fig. 2 a and b. The ions are produced by intense Nd-laser irradiation (  $10^{16}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> at 1.06  $\mu$ m for 75 psec) of a solid target.<sup>7,8</sup> Since the half-energy focal spot diameter of the focused laser beam (  $\sim 25$   $\mu$ m ), which is characteristic of the ion source dimensions, is much smaller than the ion flight distance between the target and the entrance slit of the analyzer, a well collimated ion beam is propagating beyond the entrance slit of the analyzer. The electrostatic high-energy ion analyzer is of the same type as the one described in Ref. 8 and 9, except that the distance between the end of the deflection plates and the exit slit plane has been reduced to 6 cm. The beam expansion due to space charge forces within the analyzer is therefore highly reduced and a larger entrance slit can be used.

The exit slit arrangement of the analyzer is shown in Fig. 2b. Each exit slit location from the analyzer axis corresponds to a single ion energy  $E$  divided by the charge  $Z$ . For a given  $E/Z$ , the ion species (atomic mass divided by the charge) can be determined from the analyzer parameters or, alternatively, from the ion time-of-flight between the target and the charge collector. Only two  $E/Z$  channels were used on

each laser shot, both with an energy and species resolution of 10%. Each E/Z channel consists of two exit slits with a tube followed by a collector behind each slit. The cross section of each rectangular tube is at least twice that of the corresponding slit and the tube width to length ratio is typically 2.5 to 1. The upper and lower tube of each E/Z channel are usually biased at +300V and -300V respectively. Each collector, mounted individually behind the tubes, is connected to a wide-band amplifier and is time-resolved with a fast oscilloscope.

The use of Eq. (2) to obtain secondary coefficients assumes that the incident ion current is the same for both slits at a particular E/Z. This assumption was verified experimentally by comparing the output signals from the collectors associated with the two slits at the same E/Z. The two collector signals, with the same bias voltage on their tube, were found to be equal on the average, with a shot-to-shot deviation of up to  $\pm 10\%$ . This means that the entrance slit height is well aligned with respect to the exit slit arrangement, and that the plasma density over the entrance slit height is uniform to within 10%. This plasma nonuniformity on the entrance slit is mostly observed at high target irradiance and is responsible for some of the scatter in the data observed during the measurement of the secondary electron coefficients.

#### SECONDARY ELECTRON COEFFICIENTS

The collectors used for the measurements of  $\gamma$  are made of copper bonded to printed circuit boards. Since the collector surfaces are simply cleaned with acetone at room temperature before being mounted,

they can be categorized as "gassy" surfaces, in contrast with "atomically cleaned" surfaces.

The secondary electron emission coefficients for  $C^{+6}$  and  $H^+$  ions incident on the copper collectors are shown in Fig. 3 as a function of ion energy. The curves are simply smooth fits through the points. Each point and its associated standard deviation represents an average of 5 measurements of  $\gamma$  using Eq. (2). As mentioned in the previous section, the scatter in the data points is due mostly to some nonuniformity of the ion current incident on the two collectors at the same  $E/Z$ . For the  $H^+$  results in Fig. 3, the secondary coefficient  $\gamma$  for our gassy surfaces is typically three times higher than those reported for atomically cleaned surfaces.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 4 shows the influence of the charge state of the incident carbon ions on the secondary coefficient using our copper collectors. Each point is an average of 5 data points with a typical standard deviation of  $\pm 10\%$  (not shown in Fig. 4). One notices that the difference  $\Delta\gamma = \gamma(C^{Z+}) - \gamma(C^{(Z-1)+})$  is nearly independent of the kinetic energy of the ions. This is not surprising since the difference  $\Delta\gamma$  is due to secondary electrons emitted by the potential emission mechanism discussed above. Since the incident ion kinetic energy is much higher than the ion potential energy, the kinetic emission mechanism dominates the potential emission. For energetic carbon ions ( $> 100$  keV) the secondary electron coefficient  $\gamma$  is, therefore, fairly independent of the incident ions, as predicted above.

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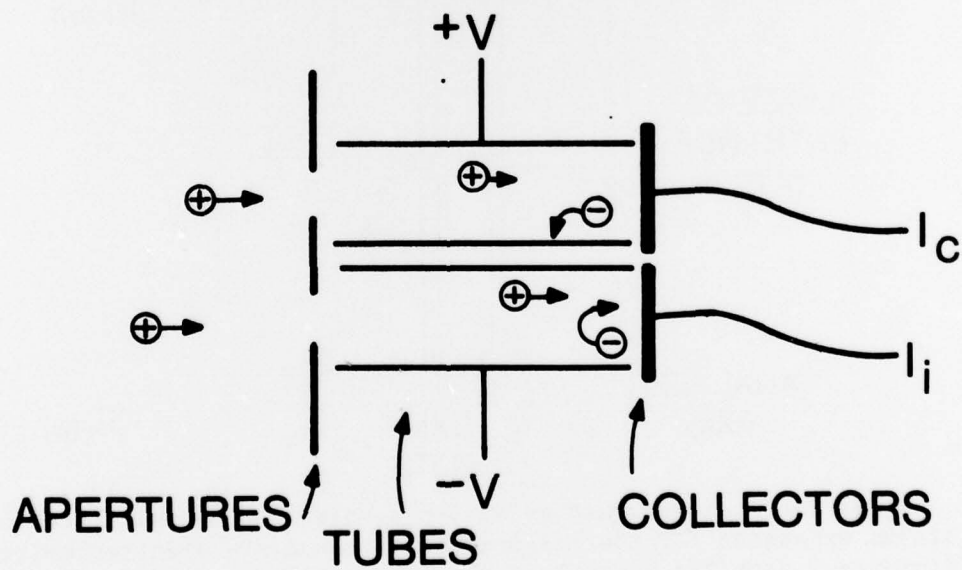
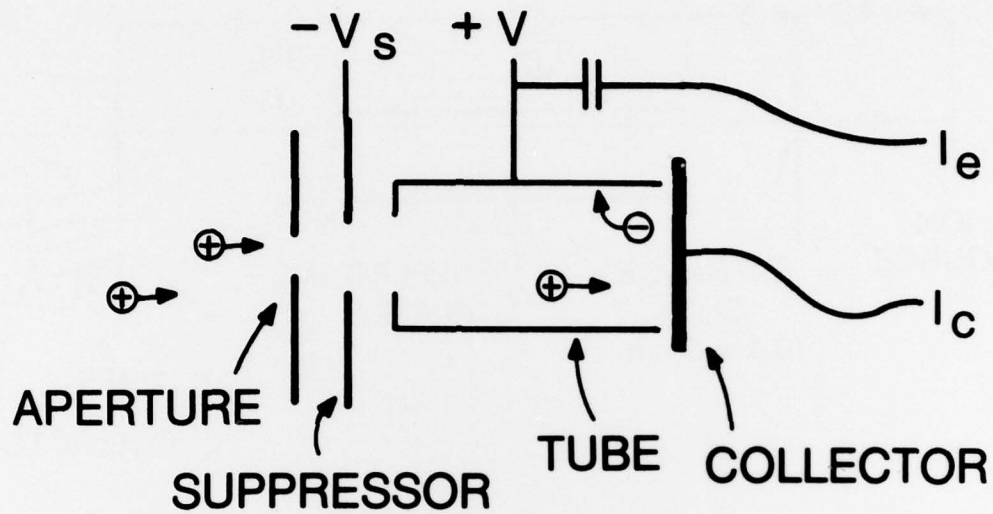


Fig. 1 - Schematic of experimental arrangements for the measurement of secondary electron coefficients. A monoenergetic, uniform and single-species ion beam is assumed to be incident on the apertures in both cases. The arrangement in (b) becomes more accurate than the one in (a) when  $\gamma > Z$ .

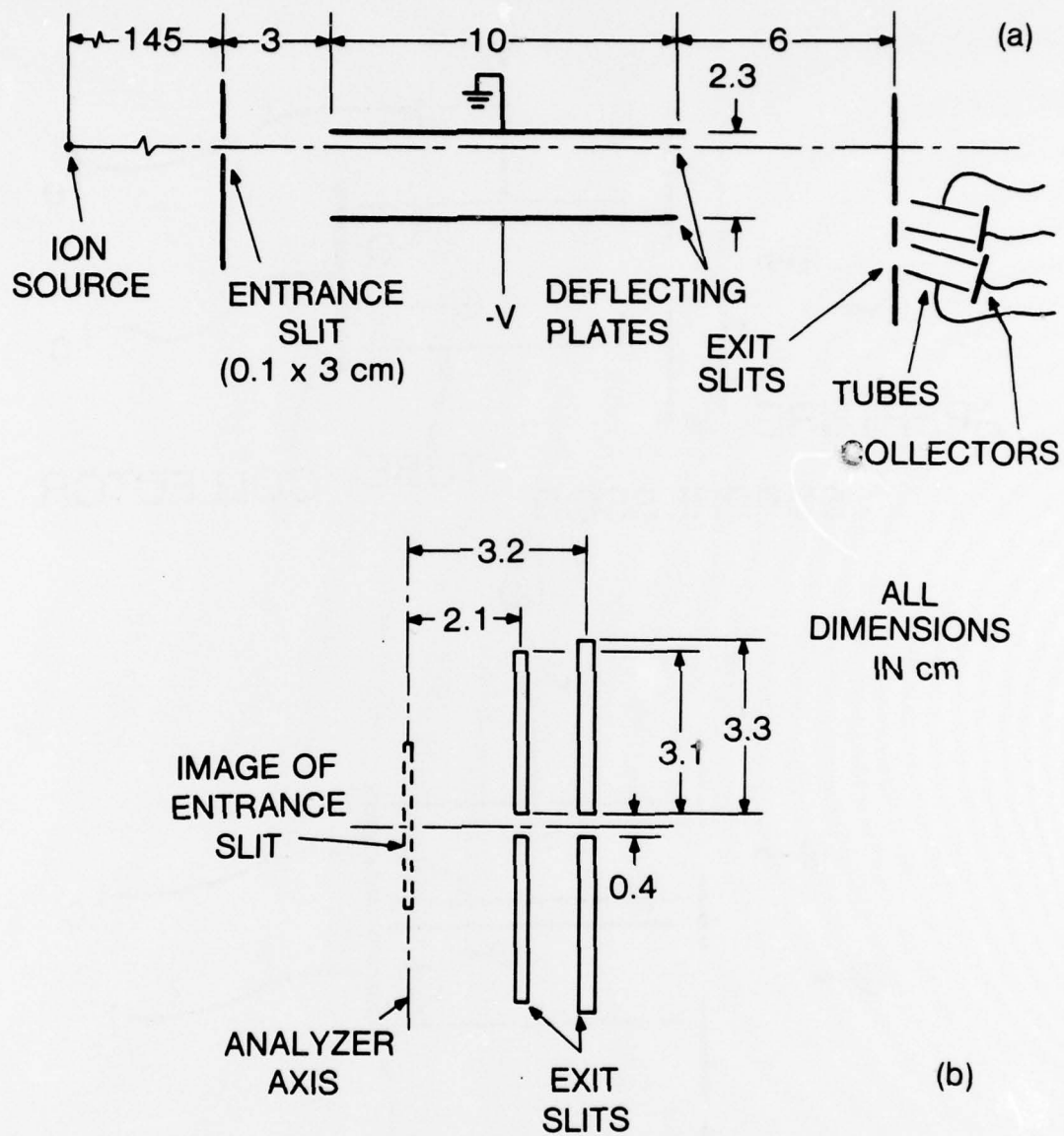


Fig. 2 - (a) Ion analyzer used as an ion species and energy filter of the plasma expansion for the measurement of secondary electron emission coefficients. Each E/Z channel of the analyzer consists of two exit slits with a tube followed by a collector behind each slit as shown in Fig. 1b. (b) Entrance and collection slit arrangement in the analyzer.

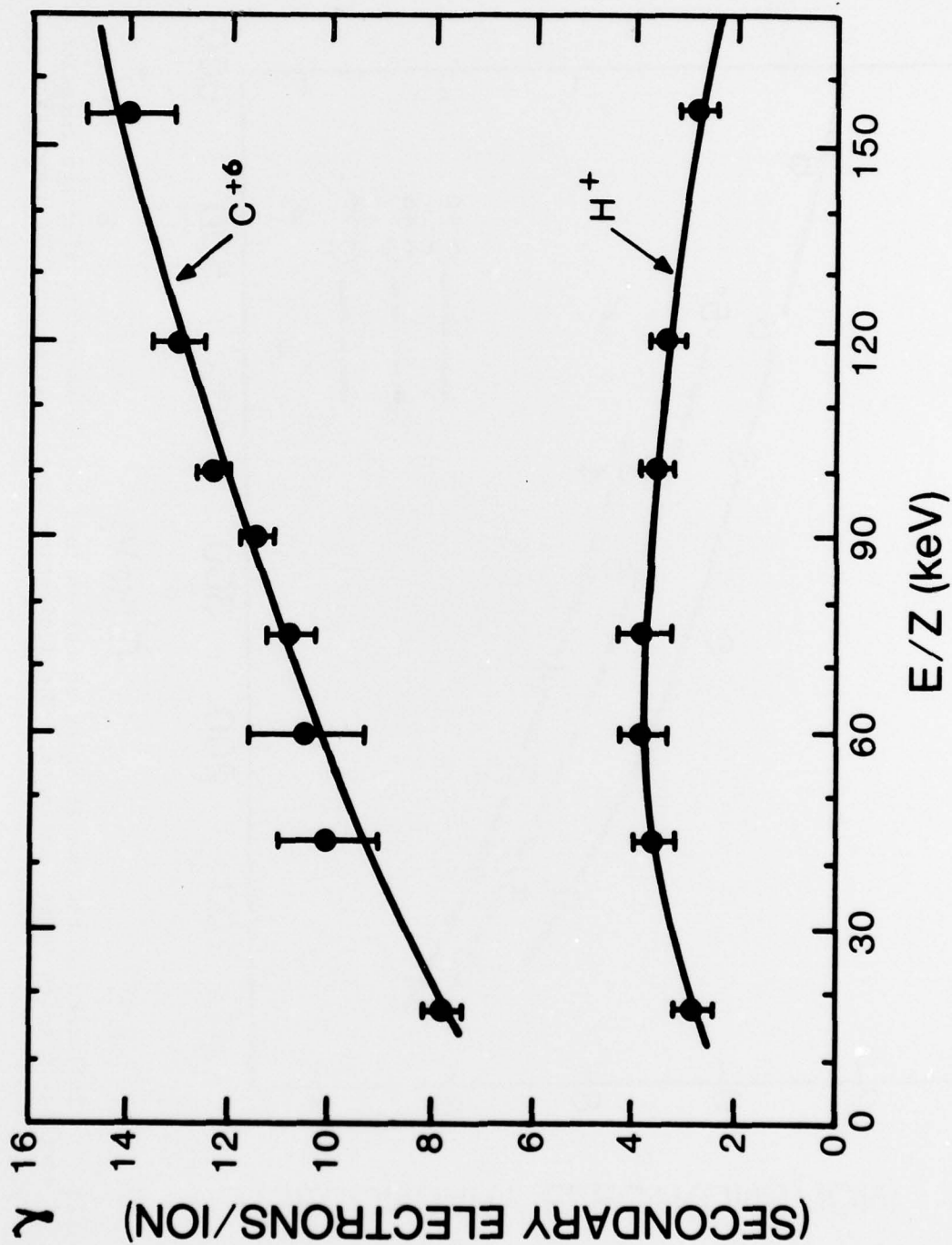


Fig. 3 - Secondary electron emission coefficients for  $C^{+6}$  and  $H^+$  ions incident on "gassy" copper surfaces as a function of ion energy.

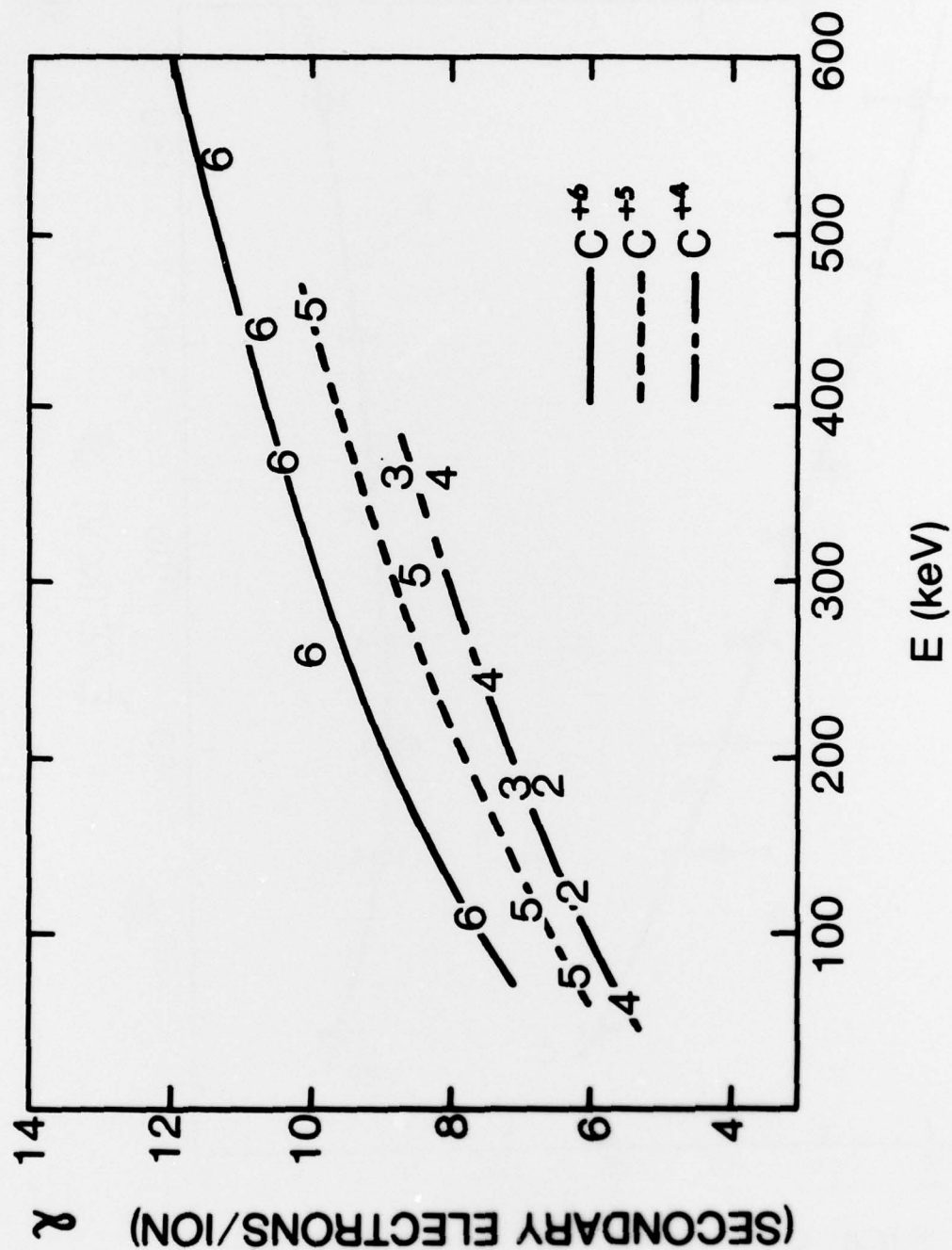


Fig. 4 - Influence of the charge state of carbon ions on the secondary electron emission coefficients for copper surfaces. The ionization state  $Z$  is denoted by numerals.





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